

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

On February 2, 2009, in a telephone conversation between Examiner Kim and Justin Nifong, attorney for Applicant, Examiner Kim indicated that he would enter the claim amendments presented herein if presented by facsimile transmission. Accordingly, a faxed version of the claims is being presented also. The amendments noted herein reflect only the changes made by this Supplemental Amendment.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Rejections

Claims 1, 5, 13, 14, and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent No. 5,237,228 (Fries) in view of US Patent No. 6,822,354 (Naman). Claims 3 and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fries in view of Naman and further in view of US Patent No. 6,023,113 (Otsuka). Claims 4 and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fries in view of Naman and further in view of US Patent No. 5,497,040 (Sato). Claims 7 and 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fries in view of Naman and US Patent No. 5,639,168 (Noguschi et al) and in further in view of US Patent No. 5,134,328 (Johnnatakis et al), US Patent No. 6,495,941 (Nishimura), and US Patent No. 6,528,909 (Kan et al).

Independent claims 1 and 13 have been amended to generally recite that the bearing assembly components are locked into a fixed position, and that the thermal expansion characteristics of the bearing assembly elements are selected so that the rotor assembly is retained in its preloaded, locked position during machine operation. The prior

art of record does not disclose this feature, but relies solely on conventional preloading in an attempt to prevent adverse wear characteristics clearly demonstrated in the slide presentation.

Applicant submits that the arguments and amendments are sufficient to place the pending application in condition for allowance and respectfully requests a timely Notice of Allowance be issued for this matter. The Director is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees or any underpayments which may be required for the above-referenced application to Deposit Account No. 01-0265.

Respectfully submitted,

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